

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
PENNSYLVANIA
DIVERSITY
NETWORK

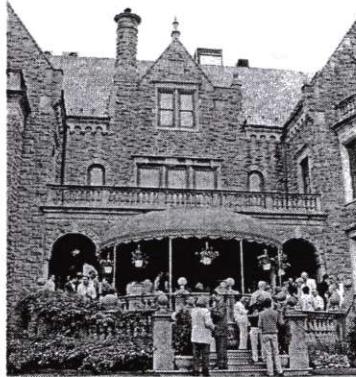
GLBT INFORMATION
SINCE
1998

VALLEY GAY PRESS

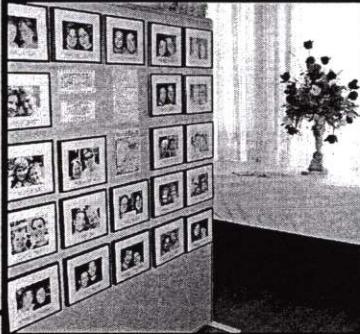
THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 5

JUNE 2007



**READING PRIDE'S
FUNDRAISER AT THE
STIRLING HOTEL WAS
A HUGE SUCCESS.
READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 5.**



**READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS
WILL BE PRESENTING "THE SEARCH
FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE
UNIVERSE," BEGINNING JUNE 15.
READ MORE ON PAGE 4.**

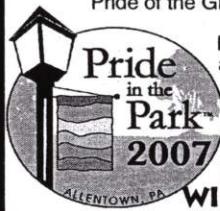
PRIDE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley is having the Annual Queen of Pride Pageant on Sunday, June 24, at the Stonewall in Allentown.

For more information see www.pridegl.org.

Also see page 8.

**LEHIGH VALLEY'S
PRIDE IN THE PARK
WILL BE AUGUST 19TH.**



BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.



LVGMC CONCERT "THE ACT OF LOVE"

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus concert at 8pm on June 21 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St, Bethlehem. Artistic Director: J. Clint Miller, Accompanist: Tom Molessa. Tickets: \$15 (\$10 for students / seniors). For more information, contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 or visit www.lvgmc.org.

PFLAG PICNIC SATURDAY, JUNE 23

PFLAG will hold its annual picnic at the home of Don and Melinda Kohn. The entire GLBT and allied family is welcome. 1:00pm to 6:00 pm. Please bring something to share. RSVP to Don and Melinda to indicate what you want to bring and they will give you directions. 610-967-5219 or info@Eastern-PA-PFLAG.org

*Live.
Love.
Be Proud.*

**HARRISBURG PRIDE
FESTIVAL IS JULY 28
READ MORE ABOUT
IT ON PAGE 2.**

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley
610-HELP-123
(610-435-7123)

Reading Pride Celebration

Join us as we make history

Sunday July 15th 2007, 12 - 6 PM

Centre Park

In Reading's Historic District

Reading
r
i
d
e



Come celebrate Unity and Diversity

This year the GLBT community of Reading comes together as one

- Food Vendors
- Arts & Crafts for Sale
- Music and Live Entertainment

Come get reacquainted with old friends and perhaps make some new ones
See you there!

<http://www.readingpridecelebration.com>
http://www.myspace.com/readingpride_celebration

READING PRIDE -- JULY 15



PA DIVERSITY NETWORK ON TV

PDN members appeared on a live 1 1/2 hour call in show on GLBT issues on WYOU in Wilkes-Barre. See photos and part of the show though a link at www.padiversity.org.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA: There was a primary election and but I didn't get a Candidate Guide from PA-GALA. What's up and who won the election? Signed, Allentown GLBT Super Voter

Dear GLBT S.V., First, please remember that PA Diversity Network (the organization that produces the Valley Gay Press) is run by me (Liz Bradbury) and Patricia Sullivan, is not in any way the same group as PA-GALA (the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance) that is run by Steve Black. PA Diversity Network is the kind of charity organization that cannot endorse candidates or tell you who to vote for. PA-GALA is a political lobbying organization that does endorse candidates. However, this year Steve did not collect and send out voting information for the May primary election. PA-GALA has stated that it is currently using its resources to help pass the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the PA Human Relations Act--which will ban discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation in the State.

As far as who won the Primary goes, here's some of the interesting things that happened in your area: Gloria Hamm (mother of local GLBT activist Allyson Hamm) won a Democratic nomination for Lehigh County Commissioner with the highest number of votes of all Democrat Commissioner candidates. The winners of the Democratic Allentown City Council race for Democratic nominees were, Jeanette Eichenwald, Mike Donavon and Peter Schweyer. Each of these winners has expressed support for the GLBT community in the past. These were good wins.

Democratic candidate for Allentown City Controller beat notable anti-gay candidate Lou Hershman, read more about him on page 11 in Liz Out Loud. We're also glad that Dan McCarthy won one of the Judge nominations for Lehigh County.

MESSAGE FROM LOCAL ACTIVIST MUHLENBERG GSA LEADER ADRIAN SHANKER:

Kait Merrit, also of Muhlenberg's GSA and I were part of the PA delegation for the National Gender Lobby Day in May. It was a small delegation so we had a chance to speak quite a bit to a variety of Washington DC legislators and their staff.

PA US Senator Bob Casey's staff is looking specifically for some personal stories from constituents about why we need the Federal Hate Crimes Bill. SENATOR CASEY IS VERY MUCH SUPPORTING IT, but wants to have some Pennsylvania examples of hate crimes and hate actions to use when he is responding to conservatives. It may help if people contact Casey's office with examples of IN STATE LGBT bullying. Contact Information for Casey's office is: Washington, D.C. Office, 383 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: (202) 224-6324, Toll Free: (866) 802-2833, Fax: (202) 228-0604.

PURCHASES AT AMAZON CAN BENEFIT PA DIVERSITY

If you use Amazon.com to purchase anything from books to sneakers, your purchase can make a donation to PA Diversity Network and all its programs, including the Valley Gay Press...at no cost to you!

All you have to do is go directly to the PA Diversity Network website at www.padiversity.org and go to the Amazon Link page. Or just go directly to <http://www.padiversity.org/amazon.html>. Go to Amazon through PDN's page and then make you regular Amazon purchase. Amazon will donate 4% of the first purchase in your order

2

SCOTT SAYS By Scott Laubner

OSCAR WILDE BOOKSTORE

When Oscar Wilde arrived in New York on tour in January of 1882, a customs official asked if he had anything to declare. "Nothing but my genius," he replied. If he had visited New York a hundred years later he might have shopped at the bookstore that bears his name.

The Oscar Wilde Bookstore has a historic place in our community's development. The bookstore has several thousand items in stock and can order anything for you that's still in print. The books don't necessarily have to be gay interest only; several customers have ordered their Harry Potter books through the book store.

I went down to 15 Christopher Street, in the heart of Greenwich Village, to ask Cecilia the manager some questions. When queried as to which famous people have shopped at the store she said Tab Hunter and Edward Albee. Al Pacino is working on a documentary about Oscar Wilde's play Salome. He visited the store twice and interviewed Kim, the owner, for the movie. Something to look for at your art house movie theater.

When asked what is the importance of shopping at Oscar Wilde instead of a large chain store Cecilia replied the bookstore really supported the community in the early days. And while chain stores are larger, the Oscar Wilde book store (and GLBT bookstores around the country) can offer more personalized service. Cecilia says her goal is to match the reader with the perfect book. The store has a website: www.oscarwildebooks.com. But if you're coming into the city it's worth a visit. It's open seven days a week from 11am to 7pm. And if you do go, tell Cecilia that Scott sent you!

PRIDEFEST IN HARRISBURG

PrideFest of Central PA and Unity Parade 2007

The Pride Festival of Central PA welcomes you to Live!, Love!, and Be Proud! at Central PA PrideFest held on Saturday, July 28 from Noon until 7pm at South Riverfront Park in Harrisburg, PA, admission is \$7.00. The festival kicks off at 10am with the 2nd Annual PrideFest Unity Parade along Front Street and will headline Frenchie Davis, the former American Idol, at 6pm. Make a weekend of it and attend the Voices United Concert on Friday, July 27 at 8pm inside Market Square Presbyterian Church, downtown Harrisburg, admission is \$15.00. The concert, hosted by the Harrisburg Men's Chorus, features four choirs including the MCC, Unitarian Universalist and Womyn's choirs.

If you or your organization would like to participate in the festival or the parade please visit <http://www.harrisburgpride.org>, <http://www.centralpagayprideparade.org> or contact: Dan Stroup, Central PA PrideFest Unity Parade, 311 South Front St., PO Box 12103, Harrisburg, PA 17108, 717-234-0328.

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

to PA Diversity Network at no cost to you. Please consider using <http://www.padiversity.org/amazon.html> as your portal to Amazon by actually setting it up as your Amazon home page, that way you won't forget to use it.



CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page www.uuclvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

Now that summer is here GLOSS has added tennis and volleyball to their roster. The schedule is as follows: **Tennis:** Tuesdays at 7:00pm; Sundays at 3:00pm at Muhlenberg College courts. **Volleyball:** Thursdays at 7:00pm in Catasauqua. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

GLOSS at The Woods: GLOSS has reserved 4 campsites at The Woods Campground for the "Summer Gaymes" weekend, 27-29 July 2007. They are sites 69 thru 72. If you would like to share these sites, please let GLOSS know ASAP by emailing Info@gloss.org.

Show your ability and teamwork in the Wacky Olympics competition, volleyball tournament, and home made raft race on the lake. Prizes for the winning athletes! Show off your athletic physique at Friday's Tighty Whitey Party and Saturday's Loin Cloth Party!

LIST YOUR ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS RESOURCE AT [WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG](http://www.padiversity.org)

3

CIVIC THEATRE

Civic Theatre of Allentown presents the final Mainstage production of its 2006-07 season, "Steel Magnolias," opening June 15. The source of the beloved 1989 all-star film, the play runs through June 30. The Express Times and KNBT sponsors; the production Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling. Directed by William Sanders Civic Theatre of Allentown, 527 N. 19th St., Allentown. Box Office: (610) 432-8943, www.civictheatre.com.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

FACT PLANS EVENT

FACT of the Lehigh Valley (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) is planning a Celebration of Life Festival to be held in June. FACT is asking that anyone interested in volunteering, PLEASE email them to help. Also, they are seeking sponsors, donations, etc. If you can help, or know someone who can, e-mail them.

NEW PLAY FROM OMICRON

From the creative team that brought you last Fall's "Shakespeare's R&J", The Omicron Theatre Project presents the World Premiere of J.C. Lee's newest play "The Nature Line" at the Theatre Outlet in Allentown, PA. Production Dates: August 16th - Sept. 1st. For all the latest information about this production or how you can get involved, please visit Omicron's Official Website: www.geocities.com/omicrontheatreproject. Mark your calendars, this is an event not to be missed!

THEATRE OUTLET YARD SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

Theatre Outlet's fabulous giant Yard Sale Fundraiser in May at Kindall and Phil's house, raised over \$6000 for the theatre. This is an annual event, so start collecting the stuff you want to get rid of, in time for next year's sale.

PHOTO PROJECT IN MCALL ARTICLE

The PA Diversity Network Photo Project - 150 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality was featured in an article by Morning Call arts writer Geoff Gehman. You can find a link to the full article at the PA Diversity Network web site or by going directly to: www.mcall.com/features/arts/all-go_art_5839817may10,0,7900009_story

HAVEN'S PROM RECAP

The Fourth Annual Prizm Prom was a success with 66 young people enjoying the Alice-In-Wonderland theme. Many community members donated services or materials to the venture. Digital Sound Makers provided the DJ and light show Popmart supplied the decorations and helped with setup. Twisted Tulip donated flowers and Elysian Fields Specialty Florals contributed rose petals. Airgas supplied the helium for the balloons. E. J. Schenck donated his services as photographer.

The food was furnished by members of the Unitarian Church. Heavenly Hedgehog and Wired Cafe also made donations to the project.

Haven facilitators Cathy Kimmock and Allyson Hamm, both with the help of Haven youth, prepared decorations and posters, respectively. A number of facilitators and community members volunteered their time as chaperones and helpers with setup and cleanup.

ALLEN GSA YARD SALE

William Allen High School's Gay Straight Alliance seeks donations of yard sale items for its annual sale at Lehigh Valley PRIDE festival in August. Items may include, but not be limited to, books, kitchenware, clothes, toys, tools, working electronics and small appliances. Contact advisor Rachel Zane to arrange pick up/drop off, before August 1 at zane@allentownsds.org or 610-393-4728 after 3:30 pm only. Thank you for your donations!

STEVIE Z

Allentown's own Stevie Z will return to the piano at the MooseLounge on Saturday, June 16th from 9PM-Midnite. 1/2 of tips received will go to Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Check out Stevie's web page at: <http://stevieza.tripod.com/> for other exciting events and consider having him play for YOUR special event.

THEATRE OUTLET PRESENTS: PLAY YOURSELF!

"Play Yourself" by Harry Kondolean, Directed by Jill Harrison. June 7-24 at Theatre Outlet @ Silkworms, 930 N 4th St., Allentown. Box Office: 610-820-9440.

GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> e-mail: GLORA@dejazzd.com or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email berksgmsg@aol.com, web site at: WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown - June 5, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4

Monroe - June 20, September 19, December 19

Reading - September 18, October 16, November 20

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medial center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA GLBTACSV GROUP MEETS IN JUNE

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allied Central Susquehanna Valley Organization. THERE WILL BE A MEETING ON JUNE 4 OF GLBTACSV AND A BREAK FOR JULY AND AUGUST. Contact info@glbtacsv.org for location and program info.

SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15, 2007 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Pride Festival.

August 19 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival.

Mid October, 2007 -- Bingo! The Community had a great time at our Bingo event in 2006 and we'll be doing it again in 2007. If you represent a business, please consider donating a Bingo prize.

October 13, 2007-- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices. All women in the GLBTA community are encouraged to participate. You know you've been meaning to do this for years...Be on our team and we'll make it easy and fun for you to do.

16,17,18 November -- PDN Holiday Art Show at the PDN Gallery in Allentown

Mid December 2007 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is co-sponsored by MCCLV and will be held at the Church.

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS SEARCH

READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS presents Jane Wagner's award-winning comedy THE SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE June 22 to July 1 at their 11th & Buttonwood Streets theatre.

SEARCH follows Trudy, a bag lady, as she plays tour guide to a group of aliens on a quest to discover what makes human beings tick. A collage of a dozen or so characters emerge in a variety of settings. Lily Tomlin won a Tony for her solo performance of the piece.

RCP will present the play with multiple actors, including Diann Stewart, Ruth Martelli, Denise Smaglinski, Christine Cieplinski, Sandra Cimochowski, Kathy Newville and Melissa Sperat. Sue Sneeringer directs. For more information call the theatre at (610) 375-9106 or visit RCP's website at www.rcptheatre.org.



SOOZ VIEWS

5

By Sue Sneeringer

THE SEARCH FOR INTELLIGENT THEATER

I've just spent this past week casting a production of Jane Wagner's **SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE** (Reading Community Players, June 22 thru July 1 / www.rcptheatre.org). The initial readthrough was two nights ago as I write and the experience was invigorating. Especially on the heels of a collision with the director of one of my own plays at another theatre the previous week who took offense at some of the language and behavior of my characters. The sublime on the heels of the ridiculous!

It is my mistaken impulse to assume that everyone knows **SEARCH** and has seen Lily Tomlin perform it solo at least ONCE but there were a few actors in our company who had not ever seen the play and a couple who barely knew of it. That didn't really surprise me though it did seem odd (it always does on the occasions when I remember how old I really am and how long ago it was for that first time in LA!). Essentially, it's one of the Wagner/Tomlin stock characters, TRUDY, a Bag Lady, accessing various characters (real or imagined...the audience gets to choose) and their search for meaning in life as Trudy helps aliens figure out how we humans tick. The reaction of the younger actors to Lyn's second act monologue was intriguing, too. It's basically the Cliff notes of the women's liberation movement from the Sixties thru to Geraldine Ferraro accepting the nomination for Veep in 1984.

It will be fun to direct the piece and see what all of us have gleaned from that era. I was barely wearing a bra yet when the burnings began but at least two or three of my actors hadn't even been born yet!

I wish I could chalk the other matter up to a generation gap, too, but the fellow directing my play is no kid. He does seem to have skipped the part of the cultural revolution where some "girls" say the "f" word and some are sexually active without apology and some would rather touch girls than boys. At least that's what I'm left to glean from his response to my refusal to delete any more of what he deemed "vulgar" from my play. It's always a mistake to edit to suit someone else's taste and/or ethical code. But with opportunity for production of new material so rare, production teams can easily wreak havoc on a writer who's just trying to see her work come to life off the page. I gave in a little at first then got hold of my senses and stood my ground. The director quit the next day. The production goes on because I guess it is bigger than both of us. I would gloat but I'm actually grateful to him. Out of our tense collaboration a leaner, meaner revision of the play has emerged.

Guess I should at least send him a "thank you" note. Perhaps I'll comp him to a couple of tickets to see **SEARCH** instead!

HATE CRIMES BILL PASSES HOUSE

The Federal Hate Crimes Bill passed in the House (HR 1592 passed 237-180)!

PA Congressmen and women who voted in favor of it were: Yes (13) - Altmine, Bob Brady, Dent, Doyle, English, Gerlach, Holden, Kanjorski, Patrick Murphy, Murtha, Platts, Schwartz, Sestak (Our Local Congress people: Dent, Gerlach, Schwartz and Patrick Murphy -- all came through!)

No (5) = Carney, Tim Murphy, Peterson, Pitts, Shuster. Absent (1) = Fattah. The next hurdle is the US Senate and then getting by the President without a veto.

READING PRIDE FUNDRAISER AT THE HOTEL STIRLING - A WONDERFUL SUCCESS

The Reading Pride Fundraiser on May 20 at the Stirling Guest Hotel was a huge success with attendance of over 160 people. The beautiful Stirling Hotel was a fabulous backdrop to excellent gourmet food, fine wine, special beer, terrific music with pianist Danny Coldren, vocalist Ira Leighton and a jazz trio led by pianist Matt Emkey. The evening also featured the PA Diversity Network Photo Project. PDN was able to photograph 12 new couples attending the event, who wanted to be part of the project. The silent auction of fine art, valuable goods and interesting services also was a big hit. Congratulations to the organizers of the event for bringing the GLBT people of Reading and their many allies together for an exciting, fun event. See the PDN web site at www.padiversity.org for photos of the event.

For information on the Reading Pride Festival, or to help with the planning of the festival email: readingpride@gmail.com.

MUHLENBERG SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE

Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre opens its 27th season on the Muhlenberg College campus in Allentown on June 13, 2007. Dan Goggin's wacky musical **NUNSENSE**, the Broadway musical theatre classic **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**, and the exuberant Americana review **PUMP BOYS & DINETTES** represent the 3-play subscription season. Season subscriptions to the 2007 season are available. Call 484-664-3333 to receive a season brochure by mail or by obtaining the subscription form on www.summerbroadway.org. Single tickets are currently available online to **NUNSENSE**, **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**, **PUMP BOYS & DINETTES** and **THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES**; for group tickets, please email boxoffice@muhelnberg.edu.

Performances for **NUNSENSE**, **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**, and **PUMP BOYS & DINETTES** are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., and **NEW THIS YEAR: Family Days** on Saturdays at 2 p.m. (The popular "Family Night" performance has moved to Saturday afternoon.) At this performance only, one free youth ticket is offered for each paid adult/senior tickets purchased at regular prices..

Directing and choreographing **Nonsense** is Bill Mutimer, who joins MSMT for the first season. A veteran of Lehigh Valley stages, Bill is a member of Actor's Equity and Screen Actors Guild, and he earned an M.F.A. in Performance and Directing from the Conservatory of music at the University of Cincinnati. Fans will remember him for his recent performance as Blanche in "Belle Reprieve" at The Theatre Outlet, where he serves on the Board of Directors, and for the many shows he directed when Artistic Director of The Main Street Theatre in Quakertown. Bill performs this summer as Lazar Wolf in **Fiddler on the Roof**.

GIFTED VOCALIST AT MCCLV JULY 22

On Sunday, July 22 Orgena Rose will share her music and dance ministry at MCCLV at 6 p.m. Gena is a very gifted vocalist and previously shared her gift of song at MCCLV's 2003 building dedication. Read more about Rose's ministry at www.orgenarose.com.

MCCLV PICNIC SET FOR JULY 28

MCCLV's annual church picnic is set for Saturday, July 28 starting at Noon. For more information, contact MCCLV's Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org or call the church at 610-709-8800

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskala, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see FACT

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berkgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <http://civictheatre.com>

CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo-groups.com.

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine - www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <http://vagranchollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.gloria.colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW-at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610 - 8 6 8 - 2 1 5 3 , e mail: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity-Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE - GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo-groups.com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652,

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvqmc.org, <http://www.lvqmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition - 610-

610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcmlehighvalley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre-610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

PARENTS-GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519 Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pflag.org

JUNE 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | 2 GLOSS |
| | | | | | | Cahizares Art Touchstone WDIY |
| 3 | 4 RAA 19th St. Movie GLBTA CSV | 5 LV PFLAG LVGMC | 6 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 7 GLOSS RAA MCC FILM | 8 Theatre Outlet Bricks | 9 WDIY MCC GLOSS |
| 10 UUCLV GLOSS MCC HMFF WDIY | 11 RAA 19th St. Movie | 12 LVGMC | 13 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 14 RAA GLOSS MCC FILM | 15 Theatre Outlet Bricks | 16 GLOSS WDIY StevieZ Civic Movie Bricks |
| 17 Interweave GLOSS MCC Bricks WDIY UUCLV | 18 RAA 9th St. Movie | 19 R PFLAG LVGMC | 20 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG TEJAS | 21 LVGMC RAA Concert P PFLAG | 22 Bricks Theatre Outlet Touchstone | 23 RCP PFLAG Picnic |
| 24 MCC Bricks | 25 RAA | 26 LVGMC | 27 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 28 GLOSS RAA 19th St. Movie MCC FILM | 29 | 30 GLOSS/DIY Touchstone RCP |

JULY 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 MCC HMFF GLOSS WDIY RCP | 2 RAA | 3 LV PFLAG LVGMC | 4 SPECTRUM HAVEN TEJAS | 5 RAA GLOSS MCC FILM | 6 | 7 GLOSS WDIY |
| 8 WDIY UUCLV HMFF | 9 RAA | 10 LVGMC | 11 SPECTRUM TEJAS | 12 RAA MCC FILM GLOSS | 13 | 14 GLOSS WDIY |
| 15 GLOSS MCC Reading PRIDE | 16 RAA Touchstone | 17 R PFLAG LVGMC | 18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM | 19 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG Touchstone | 20 | 21 WDIY GLOSS |
| 22 GLOSS UUCLV MCC Interweave | 23 RAA Touchstone | 24 LVGMC | 25 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM | 26 RAA GLOSS Touchstone | 27 GLOSS | 28 Harrisburg MCC Picnic GLOSS |
| 29 WDIY UUCLV CUUPS HMFF GLOSS MCC | 30 RAA | 31 | | | | |

AUGUST 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| | | | 1 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 2 RAA GLOSS | 3 | 4 WDIY |
| 5 GLOSS UUCLV MCC HMFF | 6 RAA | 7 LVGMC LV PFLAG | 8 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 9 RAA GLOSS | 10 | 11 GLOSS WDIY |
| 12 WDIY UUCLV MCCHMFF | 13 RAA | 14 LVGMC R PFLAG | 15 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 16 GLOSS Omicron RAA P PFLAG | 17 Omicron | 18 WDIY GLOSS |
| 19 GLV Pride | 20 Interweave RAA | LVGMC | 22 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM | 23 RAA GLOSS | 24 Omicron | 25 WDIY GLOSS |
| 26 GLOSS MCC UUCLV | 27 RAA | 28 LVGMC | 29 HAVEN SPECTRUM | 30 GLOSS RAA | 31 Omicron | |

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail: <info@pridegv.org> <www.pridelv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstu/lpsa/whatpsa.htm QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College, Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearthur@msn.com Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlrv.org

Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coalville 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet- Allentown, 610-820-9270.

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS

LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS

READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES

GLOSS TENNIS - TUES & SUNS

MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS

HAVEN - WEDS

READING SPECTRUM - WEDS

LONGWOOD - 1ST & 3RD WEDS

JAN MUR JUN SEPT, DEC ONLY

POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS

GLOSS RAC-BALL - THURS & SAT

GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI

GLOSS PINOCCHIO - 2ND SAT

RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS

MCCLV MENS GRP - SUN

MAY 31-JUN 1 - CANARIES ART

JUN 1 - TOUCHSTONE

JUN 1 - LGVMC CONCERT

JUN 3-9 - 19TH STREET FILM

JUN 4 - GLBTAC FILM

JUN 7-MCC FILM SERIES

JUN 7-24 - TO PLAY

JUN 8 - TOUCHSTONE

JUN 9 - MCCLY CLASSE

JUN 10-16 - 19TH STREET FILM

JUN 13 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE

JUN 14 - MCC FILM SERIES

JUN 15 - TOUCHSTONE

JUN 15 - 24 BRICKS

JUN 16 - CIVIC THEATRE

JUN 16 - 16TH STREET FILM

JUN 17-23 - 19TH STREET FILM

JUN 21 - LGVMC CONCERT

JUN 21 - MCC FILM SERIES

JUN 22-JUL 1 - READING COM PLAYERS

JUN 23 - PFLAG PICNIC

JUN 23 - TOUCHSTONE

JUN 28 - MCC FILM SERIES

JUN 30 - TOUCHSTONE

JUL 5 - MCC FILM SERIES

JUL 12 - MCC FILM SERIES

JULY 15 - READING PRIDE

JUL 16-27 - TOUCHSTONE

JUL 22 - MCC FILM SERIES

JUL 29 - GLOSS WREKED

JUL 28 - MCC FILM PICNIC

JUL 28 - HARRISBURG PRIDE

AUG 16-SEPT 1 - OMICRON @ TO

AUG 19 - GLV PRIDE

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

MCC FILM SERIES

Metropolitan Community Church Summer Film Series: Female Spiritual Heroes, 7 p.m. Thursdays at the church, facilitated by MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy. For more information, e-mail rev.goudy@mcclv.org or call 610-709-8800

Film Schedule:

June 7: Spiritual Hero: Queen Elizabeth I, Movie Title: "Elizabeth."

June 14: Spiritual Hero: Joan of Arc, Movie Title: "Joan of Arc."

June 21: Spiritual Hero: Anne Frank, "Anne Frank: The Whole Story."

June 28: Spiritual Heroes: Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, Movie Title: "4 Little Girls."

July 5: Spiritual Hero: Mother Theresa, "A & E Biography."

July 12: Spiritual Hero: Rosa Parks, Movie Title: "The Rosa Parks Story."

MCCLV OFFERS "DISCIPLE 101"

Tuesdays & Saturdays at the church From a highly successful series at Jesus MCC in Indianapolis, MCC Lehigh Valley begins "Disciple 101" this June! ALL are welcome, no materials needed, just bring yourself and your desire to be a disciple. To register, contact MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy at 610-709-8800 or e-mail rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Disciple Course schedule:

Tuesday, June 19 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 24, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 31, 7 p.m.

Classes in August to be determined

Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 30, 10 a.m.

Saturday, July 7, 10 a.m.

Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m.

Saturday, July 21, 10 a.m.

Saturday, July 28, 10 a.m.

Classes in August to be determined

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

FATHER'S DAY

Traditionally, my contribution to the June VGP is a celebration of Gay Pride. However, since Lehigh Valley has changed their Pride Fest to August, that's when I'll write about Pride. This is a companion piece to last month's tribute to my mother.

My father is a second generation lobster fisherman and I am his only son. He wanted a better life for his family than what the seasonal lobstering profession offered and attempted a few short term jobs (garage mechanic, Pepsi-Cola truck driver) in a couple of cities when I was a toddler, before returning to Deer Isle, ME to inherit his father's boat and a life made from the offerings of the sea.

He worked 16 hour days and fell asleep in front of the TV news most nights. He didn't have much time to toss a ball or play with my sisters and me. While building our house he and my mother made a home out of his workshop. The same building he built lobster traps in. None of my other friends lived in their father's work shop. But, a child doesn't really know any different. When you have the love of your family, you don't need much else.

Because of financial issues or the living arrangements, or whatever reason my parents' relationship could be very strained during this period. I spoke of my mother's physical limitations last month. When they would argue I always took my mother's side. She was my hero and I wanted to protect her from my father's verbal attacks. The truth is, she could give as good as she got.

It took some distance of time and space for me to appreciate my father's support and role as a provider. My mother was viewed as the outspoken, fun, adventurous one. The good cop, if you will. My dad, who was more grounded in reality, and paid the bills, tried to make a home for his family while keeping us out of debt. He likes to say that when he would forbid me to do something, I would nod and nod, then as soon as his back was turned I would do it anyway.

When I was 12, there was an act of infidelity. I'm not going to say by whom, but when it ended, my parents reconnected and were closer than ever before. Like newlyweds, they sat close to each other in my dad's pickup, holding hands and cruising down the winding roads of the island. I never heard them argue again. They even went on a cruise and took more vacations together. They had stopped fighting and became a comfort to each other. They celebrated 30 years together before my mother died.

I was always afraid to tell my parents I was gay because I figured my dad, being the macho, moody Cancer that he is, would disown me and I would never get to see my mother again. After my mother passed I told him. We've shared hugs, tears, laughs and great memories since. He has seen me through three long term relationships and has been a shoulder when I needed to talk. He has always welcomed my friends, be they gay or straight, male or female, usually with a beer or cocktail and a hearty laugh. Because he works less now, he has more time to tend to his grandchildren and their interests. He is a proud grandfather and tears up when discussing their accomplishments. He has been in a loving relationship for years. I credit her with telling my dad, "You can accept Steve being gay and be part of his life or you can miss out on everything that is important to him." I'm so very glad he listened to her. Looking back at his choices and decisions, I have a new respect for the unsung heroes in our lives. My dad is one to me.



PLANET Parenthood
donniearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

DISNEY AND DIAPERS

We haven't gone on a real vacation since November of 2003. It was to Las Vegas and we went childless, as we hadn't yet adopted Lucas. Contrary to all of the promotion that Vegas is a family destination, once there you know it is really an adult oriented vacation. We are glad that our last vacation was an adult vacation as our intuition tells us we won't enjoy one of those for quite awhile again. Shortly after the Vegas vacation we adopted Lucas and haven't really been away from home since, other than our trip to Connecticut last year with Lucas, to visit his godmother. We definitely feel we are due for some sort of pleasure trip, if not by ourselves, then as a family. So, now that Lucas is over three years old, old enough to travel with us and hopefully enjoy the trip as well, we have begun planning a family vacation for the three of us.

It didn't take us long to come up with a proposal for our trip. We decided that it would be a Disney vacation. Not the full Disney World extravaganza, but a Disney cruise. We may not be "cruising" on a big gay Atlantis ship with hot men from all over the country or celebrating our "family" status on one of Rosie's annual excursions out to sea, but we will be having a blast with all those Disney queens, or is it princesses? Snow White, Cinderella, the wicked Stepmother, and if we are lucky, Mommy dearest may make an appearance if Lucas misbehaves...oops, wrong movie.

Anyway, the Disney characters will be aboard. Even more enticing is that we have recently learned that Disney has begun promoting their wedding packages to gay couples...once previously only targeted to the heterosexual market. Although not legal, gays can now celebrate their wedding in the Magic Kingdom or on the ship. Optional, is Mickey or our personal favorite, Minnie Mouse, as a witness.

Although we are already "married" and do not plan on having another ceremony we may be able to attend a gay wedding on the ship. What a cool thing for Lucas to be able to see; that some of his favorite fantasy characters are gay-friendly. Maybe one or two will come out of the closet too. After all, if Barney and Tinkey-Winkie did, why can't Donald or Daisy do the same?

Back to reality now, we need to have Lucas completely potty-trained for this vacation. It is a requirement for kids who want to enter the pools. So we have set a goal to be potty trained by October. By the way things are going we have our work cut out for us. This will be a whole other column. In the meantime we will persevere, and we will remember to tell Lucas when he has an accident, and we are at wits end, that it is not him we are mad at but we are mad at the dirty diaper.



**PLANET PARENTHOOD COLUMNISTS
DONNIE AND EARL SNYDER, LEAD
RAINBOW FAMILIES, THE GROUP FOR
GLBTA FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. READ
ABOUT IT IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES
SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.**



**RAGS TO RICHES
TAKE THE FIRST STEP**

by Denise McKelvey

Denise McKelvey is on vacation this month.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd Allentown. E-mail denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com Phone 610.439.7000

GLV PRIDE - PRIDE GUIDE

Pride in the Park (August 19) 2007's Pride Guide publication is published in partnership with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Rainbow Alliance and will continue to be distributed in June/early July as well as at the Festival in August. Information on advertising in the Pride Guide of Pride GLV can obtained through info@prideglv.org or 610-770-6200. Information and reservation forms will also be available shortly at www.prideglv.org.

The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2007. More than 3,500 copies of guides are distributed at festivals, events, and participating businesses throughout Eastern Pennsylvania from the northeastern-most corner of the state through the Lehigh Valley region and as far south as Philadelphia. These copies are free because of the generous support from advertisers.

TOUCHSTONE SCHEDULE

June 1. A Touchstone Theatre Firehouse Friday event: Emerald City - Celtic-inspired rock. 8pm/\$5. Touchstone Theatre. 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem. 610-867-1689, www.touchstone.org.

June 8. A Touchstone Theatre Firehouse Friday event: Writer's Soiree hosted by the Greater Lehigh Valley Writer's Group. 8pm/\$5. Touchstone Theatre. 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem. 610-867-1689, www.touchstone.org.

June 15. A Touchstone Theatre Firehouse Friday event: HipHop Collective hosted by RedSun Productions. 9pm/\$5. Touchstone Theatre. 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem. 610-867-1689, www.touchstone.org.

Saturday, June 23, 1-4pm: Gathering of the Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History Project. All are welcome to come, share stories, or just satisfy your curiosity, as we gather material for a play. Light refreshments will be served. Gathering to take place at the Grace Deliverance Baptist Church, 838 N. New Street, Bethlehem. Please call 610-867-1689 with questions or visit www.touchstone.org.

Saturday, June 30, 1-4pm: Gathering of the Lehigh Valley Black African Heritage History Project. All are welcome to come, share stories, or just satisfy your curiosity, as we gather material for a play. Light refreshments will be served. Location to be announced. Please call 610-867-1689 with questions or visit www.touchstone.org.

July 16-27: Camp Touchstone will be in session. Camp Touchstone is a summer theatre camp for children ages 8-12. Morning Session, 9am - 12 noon. Full Day Session, 9am - 4pm. Morning Session, \$200; Full Day Session, \$350. Please call 610-867-1689 with questions or visit www.touchstone.org. At Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, South Bethlehem.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY
CHURCH PRESENTS:**

DISCOVER YOURSELF JUNE 9 AT MCCLV. Interested in becoming a member of MCCLV or just want to know more about the church and denomination? "Discover Yourself & MCCLV" on Saturday, June 9 at 10 am. To reserve a place contact Dale Parkhurst or Anthony Young (anthyou@rcn.com).

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

EQUALITY ADVOCATES OBTAINS INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT FOR SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY

ALLENTOWN, PA - After a 15 month battle with insurer Highmark Blue Shield, transgender employee Jan Stacy has been awarded close to full reimbursement for sex reassignment surgery ("SRS"). Ms. Stacy's claim was originally denied shortly after she underwent sex reassignment surgery in 2006. Equality Advocates undertook representation of Ms. Stacy several months later, and recently obtained nearly full reimbursement of Ms. Stacy's SRS costs on her behalf.

Ms. Stacy's difficulties with Highmark began shortly after her surgery, when she was informed that SRS was not covered by her plan. Ms. Stacy contacted her employer, who informed her that the surgery was, in fact covered through her employee health plan. Highmark continued to refuse to pay the claim, however, insisting that SRS was not subject to coverage. Even after the initial intervention of Equality Advocates, Highmark continued to insist that it owed Ms. Stacy no reimbursement under the plan and even extended the policy exclusions to a routine office visit.

"It's appalling how badly Highmark Blue Shield mishandled Ms. Stacy's claim," said Katie Eyer, Employment Rights Project Attorney at Equality Advocates. "Their repeated refusal to pay this claim was clearly the result of bias against the transgender community, and demonstrated a willful ignorance of the medical necessity of procedures such as SRS."

Even after Highmark finally conceded that Ms. Stacy's surgery was covered by her employer's current plan, they continued to refuse to pay most of the claim, on the grounds that Ms. Stacy's surgery was performed out of network, and that Ms. Stacy's surgeon did not charge the "reasonable and necessary" amount for the procedure. As a result of the continued advocacy of Equality Advocates and the intervention of Ms. Stacy's employer, these determinations were ultimately reversed, and Ms. Stacy was awarded \$14,097.

"Every step of the way throughout this process, Ms. Stacy's employer has been an advocate for her recovery of reimbursement from Highmark," said Katie Eyer. "Ms. Stacy's company's demonstrated commitment to equality for their transgender employees goes far beyond that of most other employers and is to be commended."

RAFAEL CANIZARES SOLO ART SHOW AT HOME AND PLANET

The Gallery at Home & Planet presents: "Vessels, the Hybrid Series" by ceramist Rafael J. Canizares. Through play and improvisation, but grounded on technical discovery and mastery, this new work focuses on the metaphorical and functional aspects of vessels. Part of a group of 108 stoneware vessels, each work was constructed by combining at least two different building methods and clay bodies. Preview Night Reception: Thursday, May 31, 2007 - 6 to 8PM. First Friday Opening: Friday June 1, 2007 - 7 to 10PM. SouthSide Film Festival Reception: Tuesday June 19, 2007 - 5 to 7PM. Show Runs through June 30. Home & Planet is located on the Southside of Bethlehem at 25 E. 3rd Street, (610)866-7370.

"BRICKS" @ YORK LITTLE THEATRE

York Little Theatre has selected Bricks by Susan E. Sneeringer for its 2007 Pennsylvania Original Play presentation, scheduled for June 15-17 and 21-24. A workshop production of Bricks was staged at Theatre Outlet in Allentown in 2003 under the direction of William Sanders and is the story of hate crimes in a small Pennsylvania town.

YLT is a community not-for-profit theatre soon to enter its 75th anniversary, established in 1933. Tony Elliot is currently serving as Director of Dramatics at Millersville University and will once again direct the PA Original Play. For more information on the production, visit www.ylt.org or call the YLT box office at (717)854-5715.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press

express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCLV)

-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown

Most Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA
Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading
Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St., Reading

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1300-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

PDN MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name/s _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

- Senior dues (over 65) \$5
 Individual dues \$15
 Family dues \$20
 Additional contribution
 \$50 \$100 other

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.
 Make checks payable to PDN.

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE PLEASE PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP

DUES. Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a 2007 subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2007 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR PDN
DUES ON LINE! JUST GO TO
"MEMBERSHIP" AT
WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

19TH STREET FILMS THEATRE 514, 610-432-8943

The Namesake, May 25-June 1: A family from Calcutta struggles to balance American and Indian culture and traditions while raising a family in NYC.

the big bad swim, June 3-9: A comedy about the participants in a swim class and a student making a biographical film documentary about his sister. Directorial debut of Lehigh Valley's Ishai Setton.

BLACK BOOK, June 10-16: Set in the final days of W.W.II, a story about a young Jewish singer who joins the resistance movement taking enormous risks by developing a relationship with a German general.

The VALET, June 17-23: A French farce with classic slapstick. Billionaire tries to pass off his valet as the lover of his supermodel mistress to foil tabloid photographers.

FIRST SNOW, June 24-30: After a visit to a palm reader, a smooth-talking salesman turns his life inside out racing to alter his destiny before the first snow. 514 19th Street, Allentown.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD[©] JERRY & LOU By Liz Bradbury

If there is such a thing as hell, then it's for politicians and community leaders who try to take rights away from minorities by inflaming hate between classes of people.

This month, anti-civil-rights-in-the-guise-of-religion political activist Jerry Falwell died. And anti-civil-rights-in-the-name-of-phony-information candidate for Allentown Controller Lou Hershman, lost the primary election ending (at least for now) 32 years in office.

See a series of outrageous quotes by Falwell on page 12 of this paper. They show that disregarding facts and commonsense and inflaming fear and blame was Falwell's technique to encourage ignorant or bigoted followers to join his hateful army and to stoke the bank accounts of far right conservative churches, groups and candidates.

Closer to home, Allentown City Councilman Lou Hershman played the same game. In 2002, after City Council passed the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to Allentown's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance protecting people from employment, housing, and public accommodation discrimination, Hershman joined a petition effort to overturn the Ordinance. His overzealous collection of signatures included writing in much of the signer's information himself with his distinctive blue fountain pen -- once even writing his own address under someone else's name. Dozens who signed his petitions removed their names when they finally found out what the petition was really about.

Hershman told the Morning Call newspaper that he was fighting against the Ordinance because he -- Wanted to protect the Boy Scouts. (I guess so the Boy Scouts would still be able to ban gay and transgender children from their organization.)

But, when he was circulating his petition at a polling place on primary election day in 2002, I said him point blank, "Lou, the Ordinance expressly excludes membership organizations like the Boy Scouts. The Ordinance doesn't regulate them or religious organizations."

Hershman looked at me blankly. So I took the petition out of his hand and flipped to the Ordinance text attached to it. I turned to the section that excluded the Boy Scouts, and pointed. I said, "Here's the amendment, look here's the vote tally, and YOU voted for it."

Lou looked at the ordinance nervously and mumbled..."That wasn't in there before."

So I said, "OK, but you're seeing it now, right? So will you stop circulating this petition?" Hershman just stared at me. He was reported as saying on more than one occasion that he was going to "get votes" for circulating this petition. The facts didn't interest him.

After a lot of work, pro-fairness people won out against Hershman's petition effort and an anti-gay lawsuit (funded in part by James Dobson's Focus on the Family). Allentown has proudly kept the pro-equality ordinance in place.

Now-a-days, Lou Hershman has picked blaming illegal aliens as his new way to get votes. While he inflames people against Spanish heritage minorities, he says he's pushing his illegal alien ordinance because "they" are taking jobs from Allentown workers. He's refused to have hearings to investigate if this is true. He won't listen to evidence from Police and INS that disprove the need for his expensive, divisive, us-and-them law. Echoes of Falwell.

Luckily, Hershman lost this election. Let's hope it's because Allentown is tired of Hershman's divisive style. I certainly am. And by the way, though I personally do not believe in hell, Jerry Falwell did. Hot enough for ya, Jerry?

QUOTES

"The question is did you learn anything? Will you recognize that with power comes responsibility. When the next one asks for money or a microphone, maybe you'll think twice" -- Joan M. Garry to the media on the death of Jerry Falwell

TRISH'S COLUMN[©]

By Patricia Sullivan ISSUES FOR GLBT BABY BOOMERS



The Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network, The American Society on Aging and Zogby International surveyed 1000 GLBT individuals between the ages of 40 and 61 on issues of aging.

Did you know that: One in four of GLBT baby boomers are caregivers for an adult friend or family member compared to one in five of their heterosexual counterparts? -- In the general population women provide up to 50% more caregiving than men, but there is no significant gender difference in caregiving among GLBT people. -- Of the one in five GLBT people providing 41 or more hours of caregiving activities a week, seventeen percent are providing this care in addition to their full time employment. -- Among these GLBT caregivers, 53% are caring for relatives from their family of origin, 36% for parents, 18% for partners, 14% for friends and 12% for other non relatives. This data elicited the following comment from the study's author: "Given the recent attention to the hidden economic costs of caregiving, this tremendous commitment of time and resources by GLBT boomers represents a substantial and largely invisible contribution to the health care sector and to the U.S. economy overall."

In addition, more than 75% of GLBT people expect to become caregivers for someone else and GLBT people are more likely to worry about their later years than their heterosexual counterparts. Still, the data suggests that only one in six GLBT people between ages 40-61 have made financial or residential plans for their later years. On the other hand, 72% have discussed end of life preferences and treatment in detail with someone very close to them. This percentage increases to 81% among those who have marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships. But one half (51%) still don't have legal documentation in the form of wills, living wills and powers of to protect them, their partners and their children.

The lack of social and legal sanctions for our relationships and the history of a health care system that has in large part been unresponsive to our needs, certainly has effected our life planning decisions. It is no surprise that many GLBT people are unlikely to have discussed important life planning issues with physicians, legal or financial professionals, adult children, therapists or spiritual advisors. Participants in the MetLife study cited prejudice and discrimination as particular worries in relation to GLBT aging, especially in relation to health care.

It is clear that not enough of us have taken appropriate actions to provide for ourselves, our partners and children even though so many in our community have a long history of first hand experience in caregiving for others. The fact that, in large part, GLBT people live in families of choice and may not be able to count upon their families of origin increases the burden of responsibility.

In previous columns we've given information about wills, living wills and powers of attorney as tools to protect GLBT families. In this new series we will be exploring other issues in aging for the GLBT population including the responsiveness or lack of responsiveness of the health care system, options for residential living and the issues facing aging gay men and lesbians who come out in their later years.

* MetLife Mature Market Institute, Out and Aging The MetLife Study of Lesbian and Gay Baby Boomers (New York City: MetLife Mature Market Institute, November 2006)

"I think as far as the adverse impact on the nation around the world, this administration has been the worst in history,"-- Jimmy Carter to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

POP QUIZ 12

In honor of Rev. Beth Goudy and Carol Stevens wedding on May 6 It's time to play ...Name that Elizabeth and sing that Carol: In 1-5 "Elizabeth" or some derivative of Elizabeth is part of the answer to each question...fill in the rest. In 6-10, name the carol(e) or song.

- Former head of the Human Rights Campaign serving from 1995 to 2004.
- Full name of AIDS foundation ETAF.
- What kind of animal is the character Liz on The Magic Schoolbus?
- Methodist minister who was tried and found guilty of engaging in "practices that are incompatible with Christian teachings" by a United Methodist court in 04.
- She... Took an ax and gave her father 40 whacks. Extra credit if you can recite what she allegedly did next...
- Don we know our gay apparel...
- We'll have a gay old time...
- Make the yuletide gay...
- While you've a lucifer to light your fag...
- You can hang out with all the boys, they have everything for young men to enjoy...

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or mode of life among, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe Space of Lehigh Valley

PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Rodef

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

Lehigh Valley Transmen

Contact VGP to list your organization

REVEALING QUOTES BY JERRY FALWELL

QUOTE #1

"AIDS is not just God's punishment for homosexuals; it is God's punishment for the society that tolerates homosexuals.... To oppose (AIDS) would be like an Israelite jumping in the Red Sea to save one of Pharaoh's chariotters." -- Jerry Falwell

QUOTE #2

"Look at the Metropolitan Community Church today, the gay church, almost accepted into the World Council of Churches. ...But they will try again and again until they get in, and the tragedy is that they would get one vote. Because they are spoken of here in Jude as being brute beasts, that is going to be the baser lust of the flesh to live immorally...But thank God this vile and satanic system will one day be utterly annihilated and there'll be a celebration in heaven." -- Jerry Falwell

QUOTE #3

"Christians, like slaves and soldiers, ask no questions" -- Jerry Falwell.

QUOTE #4

"I am such a strong admirer and supporter of George W. Bush that if he suggested eliminating the income tax or doubling it, I would vote yes on first blush." -- Jerry Falwell

QUOTE #5

"I believe that global warming is a myth. And so, therefore, I have no conscience problems at all and I'm going to buy a Suburban next time. It is God's planet - and he's taking care of it. And I don't believe that anything we do will raise or lower the temperature one point." -- Jerry Falwell

QUOTE #6

"The idea that religion and politics don't mix was invented by the Devil to keep Christians from running their own country." -- Jerry Falwell

QUOTE #7

"Billy Graham is the chief servant of Satan in America." - JF

QUOTE #8

"The ACLU is to Christians what the American Nazi party is to Jews." -- Jerry Falwell

Distelfink © 6/07

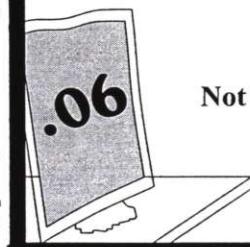
"Just Desserts" by Ruby Zebu

This Just In...

You can currently purchase Mary Cheney's book--"Now It's My Turn: A Daughter's Chronicle of Political Life". for the whopping price of



Not that you'd want to.



© 2007 Distelfink

QUOTE #9
"Religion-based bigotry: race and gender yesterday...sexual orientation today." -- Faith in America billboard in Iowa

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"Psycho Kitties" by Nicole Hollander

Sourcebooks \$9.95

If you're not familiar with Nicole Hollander's "Sylvia" cartoons, then turn to page 4 in this paper. VGP has been featuring "Sylvia" for several months.

Like a pair of inseparable wily twin felines, Psycho Kitties' diverting collection of deceptively simple drawings is teamed with razor sharp, wickedly witty text. If you know any cats personally, you know this is just what they'd say. Example: Cartoon tilted "Insincere Apologies of Cats" shows a smart alec kitty knocking off the wedding couple ornament, as he sits on top of the cake, saying, "I'm sorry, were you saving this cake for a special occasion?

Nicole Hollander's work is definitely 5 star, my only criticism with this book is mechanical. The reproductions of the cartoons are faded looking, as though the printer was running out of toner. But there's a laugh on every page of Psycho Kitties, what could be a better recommendation than that?